

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

New independent claims 7 and 8 have replaced previous claims 4 and 6, respectively. Each of those new claims recites, inter alia, that the strengthening rings are fitted radially against the gear teeth, and that the rings have radially inwardly projecting ring teeth that are in meshing contact with radially outwardly projecting gear teeth of the gear wheel. The F'Geppert patent discloses a single strengthening ring 32, in contrast to the presently claimed invention, wherein the gear teeth are contacted by two strengthening rings that are spaced apart axially along the gear teeth, wherein the gear teeth are engaged at two axially spaced locations by radially inwardly projecting ring teeth that are disposed in meshing contact therewith. Each gear tooth thus act like a beam that is held at two ends, to resist breakage at the tooth roots.

F'Geppert discloses a single strengthening ring 32 and no meshing teeth.

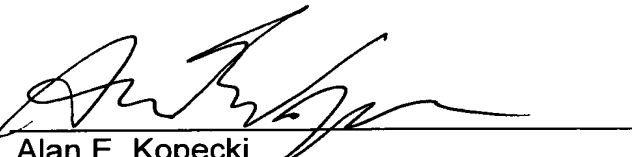
Alshareedah discloses a gear with a web 17 integral with the gear teeth at an axial end of the gear teeth. That is, the web 17 is axially outside of the gear teeth (not radially outside of the gear teeth). It is not clear how such a structure is combinable with an arrangement such as that of F'Geppert whose strengthening ring is radially outside of the gear teeth. Regardless, Alshareedah discloses only one web, and no intermeshing teeth.

Accordingly, even assuming that it were somehow possible to combine F'Geppert and Alshareedah, it is not seen how there could result an arrangement that has two axially spaced rings disposed such that radially inwardly projecting ring teeth are in intermeshing contact with the gear teeth.

Therefore, it is submitted that the claims of the present application distinguish patentably over the applied prior art.

Respectfully submitted,

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